

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action dated December 6, 2004, within the three-month period for response. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the subject Office Action, the Examiner withdrew the objections to the specification. In addition, claims 1-6, 9-15 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,108,699 to Moiin in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,119,163 to Monteiro et al. The Examiner did indicate, however, that claims 7-8 and 16-17 were directed to patentable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections to the extent that they are maintained. Nonetheless, Applicants have canceled claims 1-2, 4, 6, 9-11, 13 and 15 and amended claims 3, 5, 12, 14 and 18-19. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is being added by the above amendments, as the amendments are fully supported in the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

In particular, claims 3 and 5 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 7, and claims 12 and 14 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 16. Moreover, claims 18 and 19 have been amended to incorporate subject matter similar to that of allowed claims 7 and 16. As these amendments have been made merely to incorporate subject matter previously found to be allowable by the Examiner, Applicants submit that these amendments are properly submitted for consideration after final.

In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims (claims 3, 5, 7-8 12, 14 and 16-20) are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the foregoing, or which might otherwise

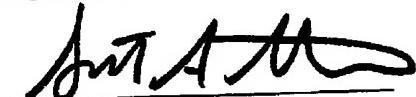
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further this case onto allowance, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at (513) 241-2324. Moreover, if any other charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

28 JAN 2005

Date



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